

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A **computer-implemented** method of processing an online purchase request from a customer to a vendor **over a computer network**, comprising the steps of:

receiving, **over the computer network**, a first online purchase request for a first item;
responsive to receiving the first online **purchase** request, providing a bifurcated order processing route that requests the customer to choose a first order processing route or a second order processing route, the first order processing route causing the first online purchase request to be processed according to an express processing procedure that requires no further input by the customer to execute the first online purchase request, the second order processing route causing the first online purchase request to be placed in a shopping cart that allows one or more additional purchase requests for additional items to be placed therein, the second order processing route affording the customer an opportunity to cause execution of the first and any additional purchase requests placed in the shopping card to be processed according to the express ordering processing that requires no further input by the customer to execute, **and**
receiving from the customer a selection of the first order processing route or the second order processing route and processing the first online purchase request according to the customer's selection.

2. **(Cancelled)**

3. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 2, further including a step of enabling the customer to create a list that includes the first and at least one second item, the list

being persistently stored to enable later retrieval and processing according to the first or second order processing routes.

4. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the first item includes a uniquely identified and pre-stored list of goods and/or services.

5. **(Original)** The method of claim 4, wherein the list includes an object, the object including at least one of another list and item.

6. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the first online purchase request is received from an automated process configured to generate the first online purchase request at one of a selectable date and interval.

7. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the customer identifies the first item using a unique identifier used by the customer and wherein the vendor maps the identifier used by the customer to a corresponding unique identifier used by the vendor.

8. **(Cancelled)**

9. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, further including the steps of:
generating a first quote that includes the processed first online purchase request, the first quote including at least one of an identification of the first item and an identification of the shopping cart;

enabling modifications to be made to the first quote, the first quote persisting at least until a consolidation interval has elapsed, and

carrying out the converting step by converting the first quote into the first executable order when a quote conversion process determines that the first quote has remained unmodified at least for the consolidation interval.

10. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the first quote generating step includes a step of generating an order status Web page that is viewable by the customer, the order status Web page displaying selected details of the first quote.

11. **(Original)** The method of claim 10, wherein the order status Web page is configured to refer to the first quote as a pending order.

12. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 9, wherein the enabling step allows at least one of the customer, a selected process and ~~at least one~~ an authorized person to modify the first quote.

13. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 12, wherein the ~~at least one~~ authorized person includes the customer and a sales representative.

14. **(Original)** The method of claim 9, wherein the quote conversion process is launched at a selectable interval.

15. **(Original)** The method of claim 14, wherein the consolidation interval is measured from a time at which the quote conversion process is launched.

16. **(Original)** The method of claim 9, wherein the quote conversion process runs continuously.

17. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of converting the first and any second purchase request into an executable order and sending the executable order to an order fulfillment system.

18. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 9, further comprising the steps of:
receiving a second online purchase request for a second item from the customer over the computer network, and
adding the second item to the first quote when the second online purchase request is received before the first quote is converted into the first order.

19. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 9, further comprising the steps of:
receiving a second online purchase request for a second item from the customer over the computer network, and
adding the second item to the first quote when the quote conversion process determines that the first quote has remained unmodified for a period of time that is less than the consolidation interval.

20. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 9, further comprising the steps of:
receiving a second online purchase request for a second item from the customer over the computer network, and
generating a second quote that includes an identification of the second item and the retrieved information when the quote conversion process determines that the first quote has remained unmodified for a period of time greater than the consolidation interval.

21. **(Original)** The method of claim 9, wherein the quote conversion process determines a difference between a time at which a last modification to the first quote was made and a current time and converts the quote to the first order when the difference is greater than the consolidation interval.

22. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of sending a message to the customer over the computer network when the first quote is converted into the first order.

23. **(Original)** The method of claim 22, wherein the message includes one of an email, an instant message, a voice message and a video message.

24. **(Currently Amended)** A computer system configured for processing an online purchase request from a customer to a vendor over a computer network, comprising:

at least one processor;

at least one data storage device;

a plurality of processes spawned by said at least one processor, the processes including processing logic for:

receiving, over the computer network, a first online purchase request for a first item;

responsive to receiving the first online purchase request, providing a bifurcated order processing route that requests the customer to choose a first order processing route or a second order processing route, the first order processing route causing the first online purchase request to be processed according to an express processing procedure that requires no further input by the customer to execute the first online purchase request, the second order processing route causing the first online purchase request to be placed in a shopping cart that allows one or more

additional purchase requests for additional items to be placed therein, the second order processing route affording the customer an opportunity to cause execution of the first and any additional purchase requests placed in the shopping card to be processed according to the express ordering processing that requires no further input by the customer to execute, **and**

receiving from the customer a selection of the first order processing route or the second order processing route and processing the first online purchase request according to the customer's selection.

25. **(Cancelled)**

26. **(Previously Presented)** The computer system of claim 24, further including a process for carrying out a step of enabling the customer to create a list that includes the first and at least one second item, the list being persistently stored to enable later retrieval and processing according to the first or second order processing routes.

27. **(Original)** The computer system of claim 24, wherein the first item includes a uniquely identified and pre-stored list of goods and/or services.

28. **(Original)** The computer system of claim 27, wherein the list includes an object, the object including at least one of another list and item.

29. **(Original)** The computer system of claim 24, wherein the first online purchase request is received from an automated process configured to generate the first online purchase request at one of a selectable date and interval.

30. **(Original)** The computer system of claim 24, wherein the customer identifies the first item using a unique identifier used by the customer and wherein the vendor maps the identifier used by the customer to a corresponding unique identifier used by the vendor.

31. **(Cancelled)**

32. **(Original)** The computer system of claim 24, further including the processes for carrying out the steps of :

generating a first quote that includes the processed first online purchase request, the first quote including at least one of an identification of the first item and an identification of the shopping cart;

enabling modifications to be made to the first quote, the first quote persisting at least until a consolidation interval has elapsed, and

carrying out the converting step by converting the first quote into the first executable order when a quote conversion process determines that the first quote has remained unmodified at least for the consolidation interval.

33. **(Original)** The computer system of claim 32, wherein the first quote generating step includes a step of generating an order status Web page that is viewable by the customer, the order status Web page displaying selected details of the first quote.

34. **(Original)** The computer system of claim 33, wherein the order status Web page is configured to refer to the first quote as a pending order.

35. **(Currently Amended)** The computer system of claim 32, wherein the enabling step allows at least one of the customer, a selected process and ~~at least one~~ an authorized person to modify the first quote.

36. **(Currently Amended)** The computer system of claim 35, wherein the ~~at least one~~ authorized person includes the customer and a sales representative.

37. **(Original)** The computer system of claim 32, wherein the quote conversion process is launched at a selectable interval.

38. **(Original)** The computer system of claim 37, wherein the consolidation interval is measured from a time at which the quote conversion process is launched.

39. **(Original)** The computer system of claim 32, wherein the quote conversion process runs continuously.

40. **(Previously Presented)** The computer system of claim 24, further comprising the step of converting the first and any additional purchase requests into an executable order and sending the executable order to an order fulfillment system.

41. **(Currently Amended)** The computer system of claim 32, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a second online purchase request for a second item from the customer over the computer network, and

adding the second item to the first quote when the second online purchase request is received before the first quote is converted into the first order.

42. **(Currently Amended)** The computer system of claim 32, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a second online purchase request for a second item from the customer over the computer network, and

adding the second item to the first quote when the quote conversion process determines that the first quote has remained unmodified for a period of time that is less than the consolidation interval.

43. **(Currently Amended)** The computer system of claim 32, further comprising processes for carrying out the steps of:

receiving a second online purchase request for a second item from the customer over the computer network, and

generating a second quote that includes an identification of the second item and the retrieved information when the quote conversion process determines that the first quote has remained unmodified for a period of time greater than the consolidation interval.

44. **(Original)** The computer system of claim 32, wherein the quote conversion process determines a difference between a time at which a last modification to the first quote was made and a current time and converts the quote to the first order when the difference is greater than the consolidation interval.

45. **(Currently Amended)** The computer system of claim 32, further comprising a process for carrying out the step of sending a message to the customer over the computer network when the first quote is converted into the first order.

46. **(Original)** The computer system of claim 45, wherein the message includes one of an email, an instant message, a voice message and a video message.

47. **(Currently Amended)** A machine-readable medium having data stored thereon representing sequences of instructions which, when executed by computing device, causes said computing device to process an online purchase request from a customer to a vendor over a computer network by performing the steps of:

receiving, over the computer network, a first online purchase request for a first item;

responsive to receiving the first online purchase request, providing a bifurcated order processing route that requests the customer to choose a first order processing route or a second order processing route, the first order processing route causing the first online purchase request to be processed according to an express processing procedure that requires no further input by the customer to execute the first online purchase request, the second order processing route causing the first online purchase request to be placed in a shopping cart that allows one or more additional purchase requests for additional items to be placed therein, the second order processing route affording the customer an opportunity to cause execution of the first and any additional purchase requests placed in the shopping card to be processed according to the express ordering processing that requires no further input by the customer to execute, and

receiving from the customer a selection of the first order processing route or the second order processing route and processing the first online purchase request according to the customer's selection.

48. **(Cancelled)**

49. **(Previously Presented)** The medium of claim 47, further including a step of enabling the customer to create a list that includes the first and at least one second item, the list being persistently stored to enable later retrieval and processing according to the first or second order processing routes.

50. **(Original)** The medium of claim 47, wherein the first item includes a uniquely identified and pre-stored list of goods and/or services.

51. **(Original)** The medium of claim 50, wherein the list includes an object, the object including at least one of another list and item.

52. **(Original)** The medium of claim 47, wherein the first online purchase request is received from an automated process configured to generate the first online purchase request at one of a selectable date and interval.

53. **(Original)** The medium of claim 47, wherein the customer identifies the first item using a unique identifier used by the customer and wherein the vendor maps the identifier used by the customer to a corresponding unique identifier used by the vendor.

54. **(Cancelled)**

55. **(Original)** The medium of claim 47, further including the steps of:
generating a first quote that includes the processed first online purchase request, the first quote including at least one of an identification of the first item and an identification of the shopping cart;

enabling modifications to be made to the first quote, the first quote persisting at least until a consolidation interval has elapsed, and

carrying out the converting step by converting the first quote into the first executable order when a quote conversion process determines that the first quote has remained unmodified at least for the consolidation interval.

56. **(Original)** The medium of claim 55, wherein the first quote generating step includes a step of generating an order status Web page that is viewable by the customer, the order status Web page displaying selected details of the first quote.

57. **(Original)** The medium of claim 56, wherein the order status Web page is configured to refer to the first quote as a pending order.

58. **(Currently Amended)** The medium of claim 55, wherein the enabling step allows at least one of the customer, a selected process and ~~at least one~~ an authorized person to modify the first quote.

59. **(Currently Amended)** The medium of claim 58, wherein the ~~at least one~~ authorized person includes the customer and a sales representative.

60. **(Original)** The medium of claim 55, wherein the quote conversion process is launched at a selectable interval.

61. **(Original)** The medium of claim 60, wherein the consolidation interval is measured from a time at which the quote conversion process is launched.

62. **(Original)** The medium of claim 55, wherein the quote conversion process runs continuously.

63. **(Previously Presented)** The medium of claim 47, further comprising the step of converting the first and any additional purchase requests into an executable order and sending the executable order to an order fulfillment system.

64. **(Currently Amended)** The medium of claim 47, further comprising the steps of:
receiving a second online purchase request for a second item from the customer over the computer network, and
adding the second item to the first quote when the second online purchase request is received before the first quote is converted into the first order.

65. **(Currently Amended)** The medium of claim 47, further comprising the steps of:
receiving a second online purchase request for a second item from the customer over the computer network, and
adding the second item to the first quote when the quote conversion process determines that the first quote has remained unmodified for a period of time that is less than the consolidation interval.

66. **(Currently Amended)** The medium of claim 47, further comprising the steps of:
receiving a second online purchase request for a second item from the customer over the computer network, and

generating a second quote that includes an identification of the second item and the retrieved information when the quote conversion process determines that the first quote has remained unmodified for a period of time greater than the consolidation interval.

67. **(Original)** The medium of claim 47, wherein the quote conversion process determines a difference between a time at which a last modification to the first quote was made and a current time and converts the quote to the first order when the difference is greater than the consolidation interval.

68. **(Currently Amended)** The medium of claim 47, further comprising the step of sending a message to the customer over the computer network when the first quote is converted into the first order.

69. **(Original)** The medium of claim 68, wherein the message includes one of an email, an instant message, a voice message and a video message.